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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5603rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 December 2006, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Great Lakes region", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council commends the countries of the Great Lakes region for the successful conclusion of the Second Summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 December 2006.

"The Security Council congratulates regional leaders on the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and welcomes their commitment to its implementation.

"The Security Council further welcomes the decision to establish a Regional Follow-up Mechanism, to include a Conference Secretariat headed by the first Executive Secretary, Ambassador Liberata Mulamula of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the decision to establish the Offices of the Conference Secretariat in Bujumbura, Burundi.

"The Security Council pays tribute to the joint AU/UN Secretariat, the Friends of the Great Lakes Region co-chaired by Canada and the Netherlands, the United Nations Lead Agencies, the African Union, the European Union, the African Development Bank and the International Community for their support and assistance to the International Conference Process.

"The Security Council also pays tribute to the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, for their support, commitment and effective facilitation of the process leading to the convening of the Second Summit and the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development.

"The Security Council supports the request of the regional inter-ministerial Committee to extend the mandate of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for a final period of three months, until 31 March 2007, with a view to ensuring regional ownership of the follow-up mechanism and completing successfully the transition to the Conference Secretariat.

"The Security Council appeals to the countries of the Region, Group of Friends, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Community to consider providing assistance to the Conference Secretariat and the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development in the Great Lakes Region to support implementation by the parties of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region."

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